Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Fact Sheet:

Cost Containment in the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Background

In the spring of 2003, the Department of Social and Health Services' Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA) began efforts to identify "cost containment" strategies in programs serving persons with developmental disabilities. These programs are administered by ADSA's Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). ADSA's goals were to:

- help manage in a tight budget atmosphere,
- identify possible savings to be used to fund improvements to DDD case management systems; and
- identify possible savings to be used to expand or improve DDD services.

A secondary goal of the cost containment effort was to improve the credibility of DDD by highlighting good work already completed or underway, and improving data and reporting used to manage programs.

From July 2003 to December 2004, ADSA has completed twelve cost containment projects. Total estimated cost savings and cost avoidance to date is approximately $3.6 million total funds. Completed projects include:

- Review of clients authorized for two or more day programs:
- Requiring participation for AFH/group home waiver clients:
- Accessing State Supplementary Payments (SSP) for Disabled Adult Children (DAC) eligible for federal benefits
- Correct coding of participation to maximize federal match
- Accessing federal benefits for DAC clients in Residential Habilitation Centers
- Reduced cost of distribution of Infant/Toddler Early Intervention Program materials
- Moving highest cost clients to waiver to access federal funds
- Moving clients off of state-only services
- Review cost of care authorizations for compliance with policy
- Expanding use of Section 8 housing to reduced Medicaid client housing allowance
- Ensuring compliance with policy for children reaching age six
- Consolidating AAA management of in-home contracts

ADSA continues to be committed to improving program efficiency. Additional cost containment projects we are working on include

- Reduced reliance on state-only attendant care
- Making Direct Services payments to counties rather than to individuals to gain federal match
- Identifying all services a client receives to reduce duplicate authorizations, identify outliers
- Grouping expenditures by service to identify outliers
- Improving link between payment rate and client needs in Supported Living and Group Homes

Additionally, the ADSA Office of Decision Support, created in 2003, has made significant progress in improving data accuracy and reporting. Their first major project for DDD programs was the improvement of the Executive Management Information System report of program average monthly costs and caseloads.   The improved EMIS has been in place since January 2004.

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